

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EUR - MR. HARTMAN

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

PM - MR. VEST

DOD/ISA - MR. ANNUNZIATA

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 192694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, BEXP, SW, IN

SUBJECT: SAAB-SCANIA REQUEST FOR U.S. PERMISSION FOR
EXPORT OF VIGGEN AND LICENSE TO INDIA

REFS: (A) STOCKHOLM 3623; (B) STOCKHOLM 2873

1. APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE CONSIDERED CARE-
FULLY THE SAAB-SCANIA REQUEST FOR INFORMAL U.S. APPROVAL
FOR THE EXPORT OF SUPERSONIC VIGGEN JET MULTIPURPOSE AIR-
CRAFT TO INDIA AND LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE SUCH AIRCRAFT
IN INDIA. WE BELIEVE THAT NO VERSION OF THE VIGGEN CONTAIN-
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ING ANY CLASSIFIED U.S. COMPONENTS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR

TRANSFER TO INDIA. WE WOULD BE EQUALLY OPPOSED TO ANY TRANSFER TO INDIA, FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION, OF THE ADVANCED U.S. TECHNOLOGY REPRESENTED IN THE VIGGEN'S AERODYNAMIC DESIGN, ENGINE AND FLYING CONTROLS, NAVIGATION SYSTEM, ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SAAB-SCANIA'S EFFORTS TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN CURRENT A-J 37 AIRCRAFT AND THE MODIFIED VERSION "37VA" WHICH WOULD BE THE SYSTEM PROVIDED TO INDIA ARE UNREALISTIC. THE CONFIGURATION LIST PROVIDED (STOCKHOLM 2807) CONTAINS ONLY EQUIPMENT WHICH FALLS INTO THE NORMAL AIRFRAME CATEGORY. IT DOES NOT INDICATE THE

MILITARY SUBSYSTEMS WHICH WOULD GIVE THE AIRCRAFT A COMBAT CAPACITY. WE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW WHAT MILITARY SUBSYSTEMS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS ATTACK VERSION IN ORDER TO MAKE A COMPLETE EVALUATION OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY. IN OUR OPINION, SAAB-SCANIA COULD NOT BUILD IN A REASONABLE TIME AND AT A REASONABLE COST AN EXPORT ATTACK VERSION OF THE VIGGEN WITHOUT CONTINUING TO USE CLASSIFIED US TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT FOR THE MILITARY SUBSYSTEMS.

2. DRAWING ON ABOVE, EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO SAAB-SCANIA THAT: 1) A FORMAL USG RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM SAAB-SCANIA FOR THE REEXPORT OF US-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT ON VIGGEN SYSTEM TO INDIA WOULD REQUIRE A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR SUCH EXPORT BY GOS RPT GOS; 2) IF A FORMAL REQUEST WERE TO BE PUT FORTH, THE GOS AND SAAB-SCANIA SHOULD ANTICIPATE A NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO SUCH PROPOSAL; AND 3) IT, NEVERTHELESS, REMAINS STANDARD USG POLICY TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO COUNTRIES IN WHICH US-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT IS MANUFACTURED FOR REEXPORT OF SUCH EQUIPMENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

3. FYI. IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOS DESIRE FOR INCREASED MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE US HAS BEEN MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY SWEDISH DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE DEFENSE POSTURE OF ITS OWN, AND NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIRD COUNTRY EXPORTS. FURTHERMORE, US WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SUCH INCREASED MILITARY COOPERATION

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TO SWEDEN HAS BEEN BASED UPON SWEDISH ASSURANCES THAT US MILITARY R&D WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SWEDEN'S LIMITED MILITARY EXPORT POLICY WHICH RESTRICTS MILITARY EXPORTS TO BELLIGERENTS OR AREAS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT. IF IT APPEARS THAT GOS PURPOSE IS CHANGING, OR THAT SWEDISH POLICY WITH REGARD TO THIRD COUNTRY MILITARY TRANSFER IS CHANGING, US MAY HAVE TO RECONSIDER CURRENT AND FUTURE LEVELS OF US

MILITARY R&D COOPERATION WITH SWEDEN. AS EMBASSY AWARE,
RECENT SWEDISH TRANSFER OF US-ORIGIN LASER RANGEFINDER
EQUIPMENT TO YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH LATER REPORTEDLY TURNED
UP IN EGYPT, RAISES QUESTION AS TO SWEDISH ABILITY TO
CONTROL THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER OF US TECHNOLOGY. END
FYI. KISSINGER

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